

Oakland Army Base, Box and Crate Shop
(Building No. 823)
Ukraine Street at Warehouse Road
Oakland
Alameda County
California

HAER No. CA-125-L

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94107

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
OAKLAND ARMY BASE, BOX AND CRATE SHOP
(Building No. 823)

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HAER No. CA-125-L

Location: Ukraine Street at Warehouse Road
USGS Oakland West Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator
Coordinates: Northing 4184900, Easting 560150

Date of Construction: July 1942

Architect: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco, California.

Contractor: At least initially, some 600 black troops of the 394th Quartermaster Battalion helped in construction of the Installation. Additional subcontractors and suppliers consisted primarily of businesses in the San Francisco Bay area.

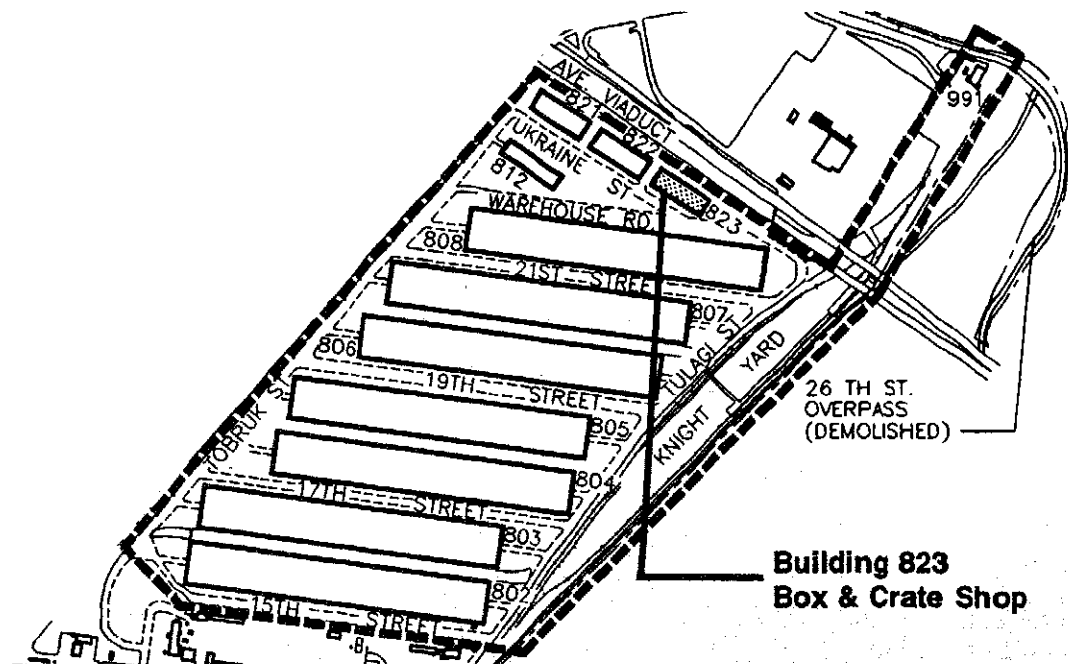
Present Owner and Occupant: Military Traffic Management Command, Western Area
Oakland Army Base, CA 94626-5000

Original Use: Box Factory

Present Use: Box and Crate Shop

Significance: The support activities conducted in this facility was integral to the success of the Installation's World War II mission.

Original Plans: Original plans were located in the OARB Engineering Office. According to the Real Property Records, one set of drawings was used for this building as well as for Buildings 821 and 822. The full



set of As-Builts consisted of twelve drawings: #1-10-44, sheets 1-11 and R1. All drawings are accounted for.

Alterations: Despite periodic renovation and general maintenance, the structure appears much as it did when constructed. The only recorded addition is a 1,678 square foot mezzanine (50'-3" x 21'-3"). The Real Property Record shows the date of completion as June 30, 1948.

I. GENERAL STATEMENT

Architectural Character. The building is a standard, World War II temporary wood structure typical of the period.

Condition of Fabric. The building is in average condition, exhibiting some deterioration of the outside fabric. The wood floor is badly rotted in places.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTERIOR

Overall Dimensions. Building 823 is 250' long and 80' wide (20,000 gross square feet) (*Photographs CA-125-L-1 through L-3*).

Foundations. Concrete footings support a concrete foundation wall approximately 4' high. Compacted fill within the foundation wall forms a base for the asphalt concrete floor.

Walls. Exterior walls are painted wood siding over diagonal board siding on wood stud framing.

Structural System. Heavy wood frame construction. Wood columns supporting wood roof trusses are stationed 20' on center the length of the buildings. Flat trusses are used to provide a monitor roof.

Porches, Stoops, Balconies. Building 823 has a wooden ramp at the southwest corner. There are three building entrances: two on the west face served by wooden stairs, and one adjacent to the ramp at the southwest corner which is accessed by poured concrete stairs.

Chimneys. None.

Openings. In Building 823, windows on all four walls and the clerestories provide natural lighting. However, all the monitor clerestories (except those at each end) have been removed and the space filled by translucent corrugated plastic panels. Exterior doors are wood frame with 1" diagonal sheathing and 1" x 10" wood siding on the outside face, only. Sliding doors at the three loading bays on both the north and south sides of the building are 11'-1" x 10'-5" and are constructed of 1" x 10" wood siding on diagonal sheathing (*Photograph CA-125-I-7*).

Roof. The roof, pitched .04 in 12, is surfaced with built-up bituminous roofing over wood board decking.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE INTERIOR

Floor Plans. Building 823 is partitioned into three primary rooms, with smaller rooms in each area. The Box Making Room takes up the central space, while the Work Shop and Storage Area occupy, respectively, the west and east ends (*Photograph CA-125-L-5*). The Storage Area is further subdivided into a Paint Shop and Office. Toilets and a Stock Room are accommodated in the Work Shop portion of the building. The mezzanine level is occupied by the Saw Filer room (*Photographs CA-125-L-4*).

Stairways. A wooden stairway serves the mezzanine level.

Flooring. The flooring in Building 823 is wood laid on sleepers over the asphaltic concrete floor. The flooring of the Saw Filer's room is tongue and groove wood.

Wall and Ceiling Finishes. Toilets and offices have plywood walls and ceilings. All other interior surfaces are unfinished.

Openings. Interior doors are identical to the entrance doors: wood frame with 1" diagonal sheathing and 1" x 10" wood siding on one both sides. Sliding wood doors in area partitions are similar in design to the sliding loading bay doors.

Decorative Features and Trims. None.

Hardware. No notable hardware.

Mechanical Equipment. Heating in Building 823 is supplied by a 540,000 BTU oil fired forced air heating plant. The building is equipped with a 50 gallon hot water heater. Lighting is provided with a combination of fluorescent and incandescent overhead fixtures.

Original Furnishings. None.

IV. SITE

General Setting and Orientation. Building 823 is located at the northern end of the storage/supply land use zone with easy access to the Warehouses.

Historic Landscaping Design. None.

Outbuildings. None.

V. SOURCES

Architectural Drawings. Real Property Records for Buildings 821-823 indicate that they were constructed from a single set of architectural drawings consisting of eleven sheets from file number 1-10-44. All drawings are accounted for. Three drawings have been reproduced and are included as a supplement to this survey.

Early Views. None.